

Northwestern College, Iowa
NWCommons

1944

Letters

6-30-1944

Letter from Somewhere in France, June 30, 1944

Ralph Mouw

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/mouwletters1944>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Letters at NWCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1944 by an authorized administrator of NWCommons. For more information, please contact ggrond@nwciowa.edu.

30 June 1944

Sommeux in France

Dear folks;

I have a few minutes so I'll try to get this letter written to you folks. I am writing this from the depths of my fox hole which has become my home since arriving in this country a little over three weeks ago. Of course I haven't lived in the same fox hole all the time since we do move around quite a bit. Our present position isn't too bad since the only trouble is an occasional enemy shell landing near us - just enough to remind us there is a war going on.

We are having a bit of cloudy and rainy weather up here which really makes this fighting rough - it's just impossible to stay dry. Mosquitoes really give us a bad time too. France really has its bugs.

Yesterday I had my first bath since the start of the war over here. I got that at a river bank we came to. The water was plenty cold and it was cloudy but it sure felt good to get clean again.

I suppose you are wondering if I got sea-sick while crossing the channel. No I didn't but then we all took sea-sick pills. It really was pretty rough crossing. Waves were high enough to wash over our deck more than once.

a few of my men got a little green but for the most part they had too much to think about besides getting sea-sick. Wish you could have seen us come ashore, dead - seeing those trucks run under water is quite a sight. Had a letter from Genevieve this morning and she wrote that you weren't home yet on the 16th. And I'm still looking for the long letter telling all about your trip. Did you get to see the Halls? I saw them last November. Certainly was nice that Mom could come up to meet you at Vinton and get a few days rest.

By the way I certainly do owe you an apology Mom for always forgetting your birthday and I'm still not certain, is it May 19? I'm getting a little old now and a few gray hairs so I guess that's why I'm so forgetful. It's a good thing I have a wife now to look after such things.

I'm still looking forward to getting the box from you folks - ~~we~~ got the one from Mym yesterday. Our mail has quite a time catching up with us.

I'll bet you were surprised to learn that we were in on the actual invasion assault.

we are all proud of the fact that our Btry was
the only one of its kind to be in on the assault.
It scared us too a little and we are mighty
thankful that we can still write about it.
When we first came ashore there were Germans
on this side and the ocean at our backs - a
rather tight spot considering the enemy is within
small arms fire on this side. So we have had our
baptism of fire and we come to the conclusion
that anyone who is not afraid is a fool.

The Chaplain told me yesterday he was coming
around today for a short protestant service and
he hasn't come yet - sure hope he gets here. Also
made arrangements for a Catholic Service for those
of my boys who are catholic for tomorrow afternoon.
We don't have to urge the men to go to church
services here - in fact all can't go and want to go
since we keep right on fighting. We had a very
nice service the night before D-Day on our LST
while we were in the middle of the Channel - The chaplain
preached and prayed for courage, which we're all
sorely in need of at that particular time. While the
service was going on we had to stand and hang on
to rods since the ship was rocking fiercely - but
it was a grand meeting and I know our
prayers were answered. My religion

has meant a great deal more to me in these last
few weeks than it ever has before. I am
truly thankful for having had a Christian
home and parents who taught me when to
look for help in time of trouble. I always
carry my New Testament right on my person - in fact
I think 95% of my men do; it undoubtedly is the
most common book found among men at the front.

I must close for this time - hoping
and praying that these few lines may find
you in the best of health as it leaves me.

Your loving
son
Ralph